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*The Geomorphogeny of the Coast of Northern California.* By ANDREW C. LAWSON. (Bulletin Geological Department of the University of California, Vol. I., No. 8, November, 1894).

This paper gives the results of Professor Lawson's study of the coast north of San Francisco. It is a continuation of the study south of that point as published in No. 4 of the above publication. The topography of the northern coast of California is that of a dissected table-land sloping from an altitude of 1600 feet on the coast to 2100 feet farther east. In the vicinity of Eel River this plain truncates the edges of a sharp syncline of Pliocene beds, having a thickness of more than a mile.

The axis of the syncline is normal to the coast. Of the 36 species represented by fossils only 14 are extinct, while 18 are not known in the Miocene. Along the coast are numerous well-developed ocean terraces at various levels up to the top of the table-land. The streams are more precipitous in their lower than in their middle courses. The Eel River, owing to the softness of the Pliocene beds—the Wild-Cat series—has a broad flood-plain in contrast to the gorges of the other streams formed in the hard Mesozoic sandstone. In the vicinity of San Francisco the channels cutting across the lower terraces are sunken, giving a fjord-like character to the region and forming the Golden Gate and Bay of San Francisco.

The history of the region described is read by the author as follows: (1) The formation of a great coastal peneplain in Pliocene times accompanied by the accumulation of marine sediments. To this period belongs the deposition of the Wild-Cat series which took place *pari passu* with the sinking of that area. (2) The orogenic deformation of parts of this plain and folding of Pliocene beds without changing the general altitude of the peneplain. (3) The reduction of upturned Pliocene beds to baselevel and the limited extension of the peneplain between uplifted blocks of other areas. (4) The progressive uplift of this peneplain to an altitude of 1600 to 2100 feet, the adjacent mountains being influenced by the same elevation. The stages of this uplift were marked by the coastal terraces, but the halts were, in general, too short to produce stream terraces by side shifting. (5) The erosion of the uplifted peneplain to the present stage of late adolescence or early maturity. In this erosion, structure and relative hard-

ness have been all-controlling. (6) A very recent sag of 100 miles of the coast at the Golden Gate, forming a syncline, the axis of which is probably parallel to the coast. This subsidence is about 378 feet at its maximum point. A. R. W.

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*Geological Survey of Alabama.* EUGENE ALLEN SMITH, State Geologist. Geological Map of Alabama with Explanatory Chart. 1894.

The map is on a scale of ten miles to an inch, the base being compiled from the records of the United States Land Office, and free use having been made of the atlas sheets of the United States Geological Survey. As shown by the map many of the formations from the pre-Cambrian crystallines to the Pleistocene alluvial deposits are found in the state. There are the Chilhowee sandstones and the Knox shales and sandstones of the Cambrian, three members of the Silurian, one of the Devonian, the sub-Carboniferous and the Coal Measures, four subdivisions of the Cretaceous, four of the Eocene, the Lower and Upper Miocene, the Pliocene (Lafayette) and the Pleistocene.

The map is accompanied by an explanatory chart which is very valuable in presenting in a concise and tabulated form the important facts concerning each of these formations. In the first column are given the names, synonyms, classification and common fossils of each of the formations represented on the map. Another column gives the thickness, the lithological and topographical characters, the area and the distribution. In a third column are placed the useful products found in each formation. The respective soils, characteristic timber growth and agricultural features are briefly given, and also references to the reports in which the formations are more fully described. Some such scheme as this, modified as the exigencies of the case might require, would add greatly to the value of all general geological maps.

H. B. K.

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*Some Coal Measure Sections near Peytona, West Virginia* (with two large maps). By BENJAMIN SMITH LYMAN. (Proceedings American Philosophical Society, Vol. XXXIII., November 2, 1894, pp. 282-309.)

This paper contains the results of two preliminary surveys made in 1872, near Peytona, Boone county, West Virginia. The tracts covered by these surveys lie, the one twenty-two miles south of Charlestown, the